



Department of Justice

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HOGSETT ANNOUNCES THAT INDIANAPOLIS-BASED FINANCIAL PLANNER SENTENCED FOR IDENTITY THEFT

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced today that Andrew W. Myers, 33, Indianapolis, was sentenced to 24 months in prison today by U.S. District Judge William T. Lawrence following his guilty plea to identity theft.

“This case is further evidence of our commitment in the United States Attorney’s Office to fight the ‘culture of corruption’ that preys upon innocent victims and robs them of their hard-earned savings,” Hogsett said.

Andrew W. Myers (“Myers”) was a financial planner at the Indianapolis offices of Northwestern Mutual and One America - American United Life (“AUL”). While employed at both Northwestern Mutual and AUL, Myers had access to each company’s client files. Although Myers’s job allowed him to access some of these client files, Myers abused his position as a financial planner to steal personal identifying information from the client files of approximately 3,000 individuals from Northwestern Mutual and AUL. The personal identifying information that Myers stole included: names, contact information, Social Security numbers and financial account information (including bank accounts, credit cards and investment accounts). Myers stored the stolen information in a storage unit he rented in Indianapolis.

Beginning in approximately June 2011, Myers created basic identity profiles for a number of the individuals whose information he had stolen. Myers used the Internet to enter the stolen information on the websites of various consumer credit reporting services to determine at which banks and credit companies the individuals held accounts, and would compile this information in a notebook. Myers would also file change of address notifications with the United States Postal Service for these individuals and have their mail routed to either: (a) one of three post office boxes that Myers had set up around Indianapolis; or (b) foreclosed homes in the Indianapolis area that Myers knew were vacant. Myers would then review the mail that was routed to him in order to identify additional bank and credit accounts held by these individuals.

Once Myers had this information, he used the names and social security numbers to: (a) use the Internet to electronically open new bank accounts and credit card accounts in his victims' names; and (b) request that replacement ATM cards, bank checks and credit cards for his victims' existing accounts be sent to an address provided by Myers. After receiving the new or replacement credit or ATM cards, Myers would use them to make purchases or cash advances.

In August 2011, after an investigation by the Carmel Police Department, the Fishers Police Department, and the United States Postal Inspection Service, Myers was arrested. At the time of his arrest, Myers admitted to abusing his position at Northwestern Mutual and AUL to steal customer names, social security numbers, contact information and other personal financial information from Northwestern Mutual's and AUL's customers.

Myers was initially charged in state court and released on bond. While released on bond, Myers stole the identifying information of other individuals, including bank statements and Social Security Numbers. Myers used this information to: (1) open new credit accounts in the individuals' names; and (2) request replacement cards from accounts already held by these individuals. Myers then charged approximately \$30,000 to these accounts, including a trip to Los Angeles, where he attended a party at the Playboy Mansion.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicholas E. Surmacz, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Lawrence also imposed three years supervised release following Myers's release from prison. Myers was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$48,488.66.

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